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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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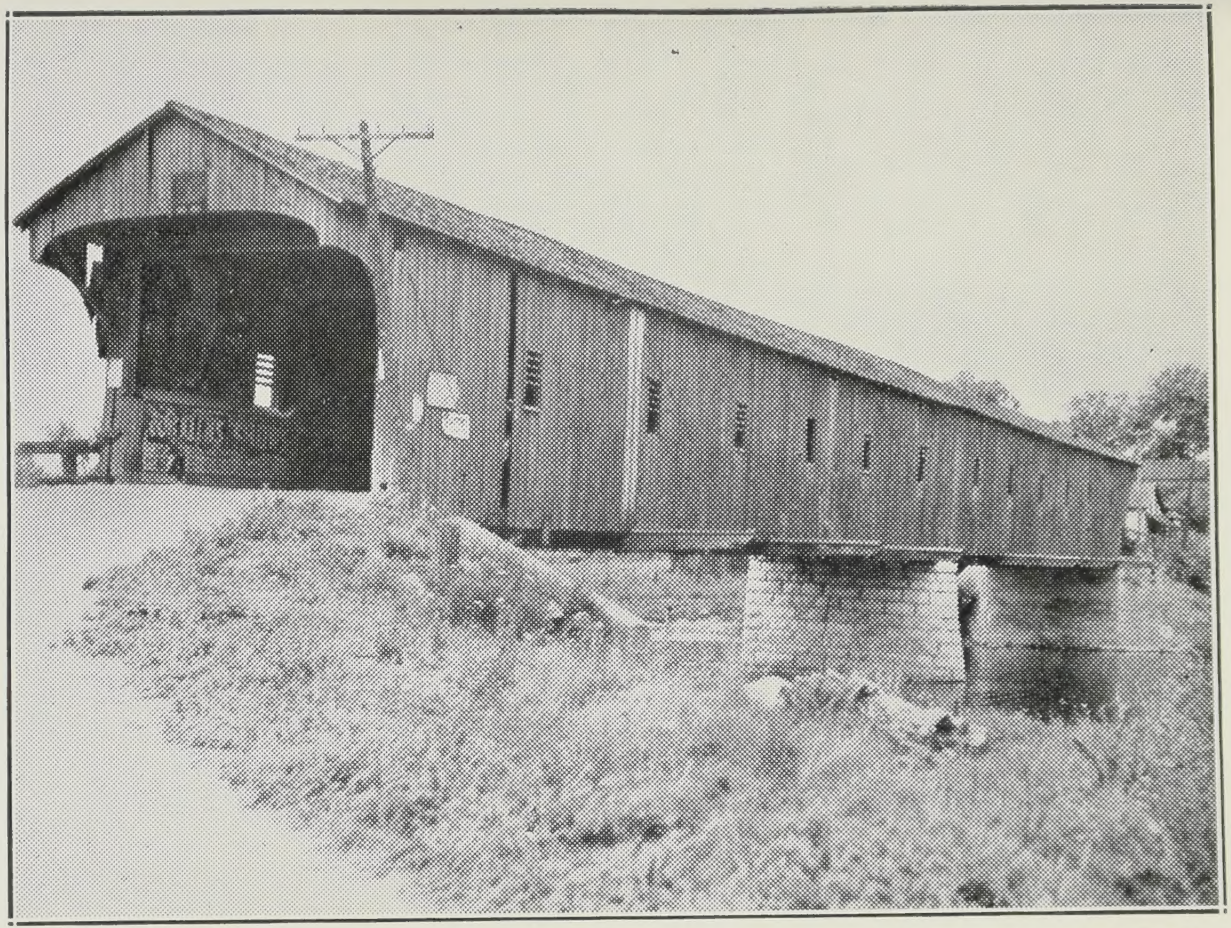
WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1937

KITCHENER, ONT.
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY
July 1939



Covered bridge at West Montrose, said to be the only one of its kind remaining in Ontario. Built, as nearly as can be ascertained, in 1881 by Benjamin Bear, a builder and contractor who lived near Doon. The bridge consists of two 90-foot spans and has an inside width of 17 feet.

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SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the Y.M.C.A. building, Kitchener, on Friday evening, October 29th, 1937. Mr. H. W. Brown, the Vice-President, presided in the absence of Mr. D. N. Panabaker, the President.

Interesting items on the program were the paper presented by Mrs. T. D. Cowan on the History of the Mill Creek School and the address by Dr. J. J. Talman, M.A., Provincial Archivist, Toronto, on the Press of Upper Canada prior to the Rebellion of 1837. This contribution was printed in the March, 1938, number of the Canadian Historical Review.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1937

Receipts:		
Balance on hand at December 31, 1936		$194.81
Members' Fees	$ 31.50	
Sales	10.30	
Bank Interest	4.34	
Grants	170.00	
		216.14
		$410.95
Disbursements:		
Binding	$ 35.75	
Printing	6.75	
Postage	11.22	
Curator	11.25	
Sundries	25.30	
		90.27
Balance		$320.68

Audited and found correct.

E. HERNER, Auditor.

P. FISHER, Secretary-Treasurer.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

D. N. Panabaker

For many years it has been for me a gratifying privilege to be associated with the comparatively small group of those Waterloo County citizens, who seem to have found time to devote to interesting research in the field of local history.

To you, who have formed this small group, it is unnecessary to address words of encouragement to further effort or to make comment upon what has been accomplished in the twenty-five years since the Waterloo Historical Society began to publish its annual reports.

Our work has received commendation from those in other parts of the country, who we believe are qualified to judge of its merits, and as for ourselves the effort has carried with it its own reward.

There is one section of the work which has not been overdone, I think, viz., the matter of getting Family Records into print.

There is little doubt in my mind that many of the families in Waterloo County, whose names have been connected with the county from its first pioneering days, have a history of surprising interest and it would be well if more of these family stories were placed into the records which from year to year we find it possible to publish.

I suppose someone must lead the way in the development of this branch of effort, and as members of the Publishing Committee have repeated the request several times for a sketch of the history of the family whose name I bear, I have at last endeavoured to put the story together.

I do so under the title:—

FROM GORCUM, Holland, via FLOMBORN, Germany, GERMANTOWN, and THE SKIPPACK, Pennsylvania, TO THE SPEED RIVER, in WATERLOO, Ontario.

I trace the ancestry of the family name, variously spelled PANNABECKER, PENNYPACKER, PANABAKER—from the original name in Holland, "PANNEBAKKER", which signified in the Dutch a baker of panne, or maker of roofing tiles.

The earliest known Map of Manhattan, New York, is that called Jean Vingboom's Map of Manhattan, dated 1639, referred to in the New York Times Magazine of March 25th, 1917.

In this early map, Lot 35, on the south shore of the NOORT (North) RIVIER (River) opposite Governor's Island is designated "The PANNEBACKER FARM", at Red Hook, Long Island.

The connection of this early settler by the name mentioned with the family which settled in Pennsylvania sixty years later has not been established.

The late Samuel W. Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania, at one time Governor of that state, made at least two extensive visits to the continent of Europe in search of his family history, and acknowledgment is here made of the writer's indebtedness to Mr. Pennypacker's efforts and his records, without which and those of his brother, the late Isaac R. Pennypacker, my story would be impossible.

As a result of personal visits to Governor Pennypacker and extensive correspondence with him and his brother, the following data has been passed on to me. Both the Governor and his brother, Isaac R., as well as another brother, James Lane Pennypacker, have contributed largely to the available history of the State of Pennsylvania, not only on its military history, but various other phases of its early settlement and later development and have been regarded as historians of outstanding thoroughness in the various fields they have covered.

In the research carried on by Samuel W. Pennypacker, he traced the family back to the sixteenth century, 1568 to be exact, at which time according to a church record kept at Gorcum, Holland, one of the name was burned at the stake and his wife drowned, at Utrecht, in the martyrdom of heretics which then was rife. In the Gorcum Church window was found a replica of the Pannebakker coat-of-arms with which was associated the martyrdom referred to.

The family crest represented three roofing tiles in red, on a shield in gold, with the usual heraldic embellisments.

The migrations of the family were definitely traced from about the middle of the seventeenth century from the locality of Gorcum, up the Rhine to the neighborhood of Worms, where Martin Luther made his dramatic declaration of faith, and this removal of the Pannebakkers from Holland has been probably

with good reason attributed to the wars which still ravaged the Netherlands at the time.

At Flomborn, a small village or hamlet, about ten miles from Worms are still to be found numerous descendants of the family now bearing the Germanized name PFANNEBECKER, one of whom a half century ago, JOHANN, was a member of the Reichstag and was conspicuously influential in German public life. He died March 7th, 1882, leaving a fortune of six million marks. At his home in the city of Worms, in June, 1868, Emperor William sat with the Protestant German princes on the occasion of the dedication of the Luther Memorial.

At Flomborn, on or about March 21st, 1674, HENDRICK PANNEBECKER was born, and by the year 1699, he had emigrated to Germantown (Philadelphia) and had then begun his work as a land surveyor, engaged by William Penn, and among his surveys are found in Official Records plans of most of the roads in Montgomery County, Pa. Reprints of many of his original surveys have been made and appear in a biography of the surveyor written by Governor Pennypacker.

Although Hendrick Pannebecker is not known to have been in Pennsylvania previous to 1699, as stated, his wife, EVE UMSTADT, with her parents, also a brother and sister are definitely known to have arrived in America on August 12th, 1685, having sailed in the ship named "FRANCIS AND DOROTHY" and bringing with them among other possessions the family Bible of a grandfather, Nicholas Umstadt, whose death had occurred at Crefeldt, Oct. 4th, 1682.

Several notations of interest appear in this Bible, relating to happenings of interest to the family before and during their journey to America, in 1685.

To the surveyor, HENDRICK PANNEBECKER, practically all of those bearing the name in America, so far as is known, owe their ancestry.

Hendrick had relatives in the State of Kentucky who probably descended from FREDERICK PANNEBECKER, believed to have been a brother of Hendrick, the surveyor.

In 1702 the surveyor moved from Germantown to the Skippack, a small stream tributary to the Perkiomen, where about two miles from the Village of Evansburg, he reared his family and spent the remaining half century of his life, becom-

ing an extensive land owner and at one time being the owner of seven thousand acres, including what was called Bebber's Township. There he died suddenly, April 4th, 1754.

The military records of the American Civil War contain the names of 145 representatives of the descendants of Hendrick Pannebecker mostly on the side of the Northern Army. They include two major-generals, four colonels, one adjutant-general, two surgeons, one lieut.-colonel, two assistant surgeons, one adjutant, nine captains, seven lieutenants, one quartermaster, one hospital steward, five sergeants, nine corporals and one hundred privates.

To Galusha Pennypacker, who at the age of twenty-two, was a brevet major-general and the youngest general in the United States Army, there was erected and unveiled, June 1st, 1934, at North Side, Logan Circle, The Parkway, Philadelphia, a sculptured bronze memorial, the erection of which was authorized by Act 377A of the Pennsylvania General Assembly of 1919.

In direct line of descent from Hendrick Pannebecker, one son, JACOB, died May 27th, 1752, at the age of 37 years. His wife was Margaret Tyson. Their children were Matthias, Cornelius, Henry, Elizabeth, Barbara and Jacob, Jr.

Other children of the founder, Hendrick, were Martha, the wife of Anthony Vanderslice; Barbara, the wife of Cornelius Tyson; Susanna, the wife of Peter Keyser of Worcester; Peter, who married Elizabeth Keyser; John, who married Anneke Keyser, and Henry, whose wife was Rebecca Kuster.

Jacob's son, MATTHIAS, married Mary Kuster and became a bishop of the Mennonite Church, and among his descendants were Governor Pennypacker, a great-grandson, and his brothers already referred to, Isaac R. and James Lane Pennypacker.

HENRY, the third son of Jacob Penebecker, as his name appears upon his will, although not a bishop, as his brother Matthias, was however, also a minister of the Mennonite Church.

He married Barbara Tyson and they became the ancestors of the Pannabeckers and Panabakers of Waterloo County.

Matthias, the bishop, had the following children by his first wife Mary: James; Joseph; Matthias; John; Elizabeth, who became the wife of Daniel Showalter; Margaret, the wife of Daniel Hye, and one other daughter, Sarah, was the child of the bishop's second wife, also named Mary (Longacre).

The children of Henry Penebecker, the Mennonite minister, were CORNELIUS, who emigrated to Waterloo Township in 1810, was born December 8th, 1770, and died June 22nd, 1855, being buried at Wanner's Cemetery, west of Hespeler, and MARGARET, who became the wife of Jacob Clemens.

The pioneer to Waterloo, Cornelius Pannabecker, as he spelled his name, married Ann Detwiler, who died in October, 1855.

He was a native of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and, being a blacksmith by trade, he conducted such a shop on the roadside at his farm, part of Lot 10, Concession One, after taking up residence in Waterloo Township. He also owned property in Concession Two and later became partner with Joseph Oberholtzer in a saw milling enterprise below the present site of the Forbes Woollen Mills in Hespeler.

Space will not permit to follow with details of the descendants of the pioneer, so large a number of which have been identified with the later development of the township in which he settled and of other sections of Canada, near and far, now numbering several hundred persons.

His immediate family were ELIZABETH, (Mrs. David Shantz), who had no children; HENRY, who married Sarah Gingrich and whose children to the third and fourth generation are now scattered as far west as the Pacific coast; ABRAM, the writer's grandfather, married Sarah Clemens, and among his descendants are found numerous families bearing the names Rife, Kribs, Brydon, Pannabecker and Panabaker; BARBARA, the wife of Moses Eby, died at the birth of her tenth child and many of her descendants live in various parts of this continent; JOHN, whose wife was Mary Smith, was the progenitor of a less numerous posterity, among these is Ruben Panabaker, photographic artist of Kitchener and his sister, Mrs. Myron Bowman; MARGARET married John Rosenberger, and with a family of twelve children they have a large number of descendants bearing many family names, including that of Rosenberger.

The youngest son of the pioneer, Cornelius, was also called CORNELIUS, and his wife was Veronica Witmer. Their home was in Puslinch Township, a few miles from Hespeler. Their children numbered but four, viz., Elias Pannabecker, who became one of the earliest breeders of Holstein dairy cattle in this part of Canada; Samuel, a blacksmith and carriage builder,

whose children and grandchildren have become outstanding for their service in various mission fields of the Mennonite Church, and two daughters, Esther and Anna, who became respectively the first and second wife of Daniel Holm.

To the youngest son of the Waterloo Township pioneer credit has been given for the invention of a sulky rake which he and his son evolved in their blacksmith shop of which the stone walls now only remain in Puslinch on the homestead just east of the division line between the counties of Waterloo and Wellington.

Cornelius, Jr., sustained a permanent injury to his foot so that he could no longer follow on foot the old-fashioned drag rakes used up to that time by the farmers in haying operations. From the need of having a rake on wheels upon which he could ride was born the idea of placing buggy wheels upon a suitable style of wooden rake, and from this the development of the commonly used sulky rake took form, but in iron instead of wood.

Of the numerous descendants of the founder of the family in America through the immigrant to Canada already named and his wife, Ann Detwiler, as already stated, it is impossible in the available space here to go into detail.

Representatives of the family under various names through marriage are found in all walks of life. While many have continued to follow agricultural pursuits, a great many have become identified with manufacturing and commercial enterprises of various kinds.

Educational work has attracted many, while perhaps a smaller number have devoted their activities to the ministry and missionary work in several countries.

A goodly number have become proficient in the science of mechanics and attained responsible positions in connection with large manufacturing industries, Hydro Electric Power development, etc.

Some members of the clan have shown artistic aptitudes and their number is increasing. Frank S. Panabaker of Hespeler, by prowess in oil painting, in Canadian scenery reproductions and portraiture, has given prominence to the family name.

None of the family in Canada perhaps, lays claim to great wealth, but many have endeavored to make contributions in the

communities in which they have lived by public service and by consistency of effort in their many activities, in the direction of progress toward the time in Canada, when its citizenship may enjoy a still more desirable position in contrast with that which their progenitors knew in the crowded places from which they came in Europe.

■

EARLY HISTORY OF THE MILL CREEK SCHOOL SECTION (S.S. NO. 26, NORTH DUMFRIES)

Mrs. Thos. D. Cowan

There are no written records of the school life of the children of the earliest settlers of this community. But their children and grandchildren can tell stories of some of the boys walking into Galt to receive their instruction in the three R's. As the section borders on the northeastern part of the city, this distance was not too great. The girls were taught by a woman in her home.

According to a memorandum in the secretary-treasurer's book of the years 1847-66 the first school was opened in May, 1837. This schoolhouse was situated on the Killean Road, on the farm now owned by John McKenzie.

This old secretary-treasurer's book opens with the minutes of the annual meeting of 1847.

Jan. 12—School Section No. 26, Dumfries:

In conformity with the 22nd section of the School Act 9th Vic. Caput XX, a public meeting was held at the schoolhouse on Tuesday, the 12th of January, 1847, and the following persons were elected, viz.:

James Nicol—Chairman.

Trustees:

Duncan Ferguson—for one year.

Alex. Scrimger—for two years.

Asa Douglas—for three years.

This law is contained in the Provincial Statutes of Canada, 1846, and reads:

"And be it enacted that at the First Annual School Meeting held in any school section after the passing of this act, the persons qualified to vote thereat shall elect, by a majority of votes, three Trustees, who shall be numbered one, two, three; (the order to be determined by lot), the first of whom shall continue in office one year, the second two years, the third three years; at the end of which periods they shall respectively be replaced by others; and that at each succeeding annual school meeting of such section, the persons qualified to vote shall elect one Trustee, who shall continue in office three years, and until a successor is elected. Provided that any Trustee, if willing, may be re-elected."

The record for the year 1847 is brief:

Jan. 18—Engaged Malcolm McIntyre as teacher to continue for three mos. at the rate of four pounds ten shillings per month.

March 23—School discontinued. Two months taught.

April 12—Jane Milroy commenced at three pounds five shillings per month.

July 5—Jane Milroy commenced at three pounds five shillings per month.

Sept. 14—Paid Jane Milroy per order, £6, 3s, 3½d. Allowance of government money on rate bill for the quarter ending July 3, £3, 0, 0. For repairs re said rate bill, 2s, 5½d. Rate bill, £7, 12s, 6d.

Oct. 26—Engaged Jane Milroy for two months at three pounds, fifteen shillings per month. Rate bill for quarter ending Oct. 26, £7, 12s, 6d. Repairs on above rate bill, 2s, 5½d. Allowance of government money applied to quarter ending Oct. 26, £3, 0s, 0d. Rate bill for quarter ending Dec. 24, 1847, £4, 12s, 6d. Allowance of public money, £3, 0s, 0d. For repairs, etc., 2s, 6d.

We note that the only money paid out is for the teacher's salary, and repairs on rate bills. No mention is made of fuel or supplies. It is not until 1853 that we find an item of this type.

Oct. 11—Map and visitors' book, £1, 5s, 10d. The first account of money being spent on wood for fuel is in August, 1856.

It must have been hard for these early landholders to raise sufficient money to carry on the school. They were often tardy in paying the teacher's salary. In 1850 we find them paying in January, March and finally in June on an order, the salary of the teacher who had left them the previous November. Even in 1864 we find a note that they owed the teacher, $61.25, on the previous year's salary.

This is probably one of the reasons why in the period from 1847 to 1866 they had twenty-four teachers, fifteen men and nine women. The longest tenure in that period was two years and a half. At first the teachers were hired for short periods, as days, months or quarters. But in 1859 Robt. Biggar was hired for $350 per annum. The lowest salary paid was £3, 5s. per month. The pound was reckoned as equal to four dollars, whenever they had to change from pounds to dollars. But it was not until 1858 that the books were changed from British currency to dollars, cents and half cents, even though we find James Scrimger being hired in 1853 at eighteen dollars per month.

In 1850 an act was passed in Canada permitting the school sections to raise money, not only by a rate bill but also by charging a fee. However, it was not until 1854 that it was decided to charge each pupil one shilling three pence per month. This was decided on each year at the annual meeting, and in 1859 it became twenty-five cents a month. They were still charging this in 1866. There are no records of this school section to show whether they had abolished this fee before 1871. That was the year when all common schools in Ontario became public schools.

There have been three schools in the section. The first one, as mentioned before, was opened in 1837. It must have become unsuitable, perhaps not large enough. It was not a case of the section having become prosperous. This second school was also built on the Killean Road, a little east of the first. It is still standing and is the home of Mrs. Neil Wilkinson.

The minutes concerning the building of the second school are: Aug. 5th, 1852—At a meeting of the Trustees of the School Section No. 26, it was resolved that the sum of forty-four pounds be levied and collected from the ratepayers of said school section, that is, the sum of twenty-nine pounds for the erection of the schoolhouse, being the first instalment, and one-half the sum contracted for for finishing said schoolhouse. And the sum of six pounds, seven shillings, six pence for the building of a

fence around the same, and likewise the sum of three pounds, fifteen shillings for the purchase of the lot on which the schoolhouse stands, and the sum of four pounds, seventeen shillings, and six pence for collecting and contingencies, amounting in all to the above amount, forty-four pounds. Duncan Ferguson, Alex. Miller, Andrew Turnbull, Trustees.

The minutes of the meetings previous to the building of the third school, which is the present one, reveal that the ratepayers had difficulty in agreeing on the new site. The first special meeting was held in 1859 but it was not until 1861 that they finally did decide to buy the present site. The school erected in 1861 was frame, and was bricked in the eighties. The original lot was one-half acre. This was increased to one acre in 1910, after the Old Boys' Reunion.

In 1860 the assessment value of the section was $61,417. Today it is slightly more than five times that. Some of the original section is within the limits of the City of Galt.

The number of people in the section in 1857 was three hundred and fifty-eight. The number of children was ninety-one. The population is slightly greater today, due to the increase in the number of homes, just outside the city limits. There are fewer children, however.

The total expenditure in 1847 for school purposes was $140.00. In 1860 it was $326, but today it is around $1,400.

In May, 1937, the ratepayers of the section, and the Mill Creek Women's Institute placed a tablet on the school in memory of the pioneers who had built the first school in this section.

List of Teachers, 1847-66:

1847—Malcolm McIntyre, Jane Milroy; 1848—Jane Milroy; 1849—John Milroy, Thos. Oliver, Jas. Scrimger; 1850—James Scrimger, Alex. McIntyre; 1851—Alex. McIntyre; 1852—Alex. McIntyre, Robert Hunter; 1853—James Scrimger, Margaret Stuart; 1854—James Scrimger, Robert Moffat; 1855—Robert Moffat; 1856—Alex. Bell, Jr., Alex. Bell, Sr., Miss Rennelson; 1857—Miss Mary Oakes, Catherine McKenzie; 1858—John Mickelborough; 1859—Robert Biggar, Helen Rennelson; 1860—Helen Rennelson, Miss Taylor; 1861—R. Richardson; 1862—W. H. Rennelson; 1863—W. H. Rennelson; 1864—W. H. Rennelson, Hugh Strang, Miss C. M. Tinling; 1865—Miss C. M. Tinling; 1866—Miss C. M. Tinling, Miss E. Jamieson.

Trustees elected: 1847—Duncan Ferguson, Alex. Scrimger, Asa Douglas; 1848—Duncan Ferguson; 1849—Andrew Turnbull; 1850—Alex. Miller; 1851—Duncan Ferguson; 1852—Andrew Turnbull; 1853—John Grieve; 1854—Hugh Fairgrieve; 1855—Jas. Nicol; 1856—Duncan McKellar; 1857—Duncan Ferguson; 1858—John A. McKenzie; 1859—John Goodall; 1860—Duncan Ferguson; 1861—Andrew Scott; 1862—Andrew Turnbull; 1863—Duncan Ferguson; 1864—Andrew Scott; 1865—Andrew Moscrip; 1866—Duncan Ferguson; 1867—James Watson.

Main source of information: Sec.-Treas. Book, 1847-1866. Sec.-Treas. for nearly all those years, Duncan Ferguson.

■

THE LEGEND OF OROMOCTO SPRING IN ATTIWANDRON PARK—CRESSMAN'S WOODS

By Walter Cunningham

In the misty past, Iroquois Indians hunted game in this region. There was a band that was notorious for their prowess in the chase, their woodcraft, cunning, and cruelty to prisoners. The Upper Canada tribes were less bloodthirsty and feared the Iroquois. When a warning of their approach was received, runners were despatched to other friendly camps summoning their warriors to assist them in repelling the dreaded marauders.

One year, the Iroquois scoured the Niagara region. Since their spoils were meagre, they determined to cross the peninsula and pierce into the Lake Huron district, and on the way to pillage the camps of local Indians and take their scalps to decorate the ridgepoles of their wigwams. Of their coming, a scout alarmed the Attiwandaron village on the Grand River, below Brantford. But all the Attiwandaron warriors were absent on a hunting expedition. In their huts there were only old braves, squaws, boys and maidens. Although wearied by a three days' run, the scout volunteered to warn the absent Attiwandarons.

In the vicinity of Elmira, there was a friendly tribe camped for the summer and known as the Petuns. The greylocks in the village considered it their duty to warn the Petuns of the Iroquois menace. Whom could they send? The old men were too

feeble; the squaws not able to undergo the journey; and the chits too inexperienced in forest lore. The prospect of the Petuns being notified of the danger dwindled as the names of possible runners were weighed and discarded.

In the Attiwandaron settlement was a maiden named Nashwaaksis. Her comeliness and vigor had won the admiration of Oromocto, a Petun warrior, who had once visited the Attiwandaron village. To her, the memory of his smile was still green. The music of his voice, telling her that the stars were jealous of her eyes; the birds of her songs; and the flowers of her beauty, were treasured up by the maiden. Thinking of the warrior whom she loved and who, in her heart of hearts she knew, loved her, she offered herself as a messenger.

At daybreak, Nashwaaksis set forth on her long journey. Three days later she reached the Petun camp. There she was feted for her bravery in hazarding the dangerous trail alone. To recover from her exhaustion, she remained for a number of days. Oromocto was solicitous for her comfort and presented her with a pair of moccasins to replace those she had worn out while bringing in the warning. On the eleventh day, she and Oromocto left the Petun shelters for the Attiwandaron village, where it was agreed that their marriage should be performed as soon as the hostile Iroquois had been driven out.

The first day's journey brought them to the bluff overlooking the Grand River at Doon. They decided to camp for the night in Cressman's Woods, nearby; Nashwaaksis to sleep and Oromocto to guard her. In the deep foliage a nook was found for the maiden, who, wearied with travel, soon fell asleep. After hearing her regular breathing, Oromocto resolved to scout the surrounding woods and ascertain if unseen foes lurked in them. Silently, like a panther, he slipped from tree to tree and knoll to knoll. Darkness crept over the woods. As dawn blotted out the stars and brightened the dome overhead, the Iroquois' fierce war-whoop rang through the woods. Oromocto dashed furiously along to the dell where his loved one reposed, only to behold a score of fiends leaping through the woods and intent on slaying him.

Hastily lifting Nashwaaksis, telling her to be brave, he thrust her deeper into the foliage. Then he turned and faced his enemies. The fierceness with which he defended his betrothed may be judged by the fact that he despatched seven of his foes before receiving his own death-blow. When Oromocto was slain,

Nashwaaksis uttered a heart-broken scream, sprang from her hiding-place and fell dead across the body of her lover.

Two days later a party of Attiwandarons appeared on the tragic scene, searching for the maiden. Stoically, they beheld the bodies of the betrothed. They lifted the lifeless forms. As they raised them, a spring of water gushed from the spot. The Attiwandarons interpreted the appearance of the spring to mean: "Clear as the character of beautiful Nashwaaksis; pure as the love of the twain, and cold as the heart of the Iroquois."

The waters of the spring were said to contain ingredients that not only restore health but insure happiness. After the brave Petun, the active waters have been named: "Oromocto Spring."

THE HISTORY OF KNOX'S CHURCH, GALT, ONT.

(A paper by John R. Blake, B.A., Police Magistrate)

This paper giving the history of Knox's Church from its inception in 1844, was prepared and given by John R. Blake, at a conversazione celebrating the diamond anniversary of the church. (1930).

Of all writing, history is the most difficult, an historian being one who describes his own or some past age so vividly, so graphically and so correctly that his readers, no matter of what generation, can see and grasp exactly what the age really was. History should not be confounded with memoirs, which generally, though not invariably, record merely personal impressions, nor with chronicles, which simply record events. In order to be a successful historian one must be able not only to understand and sympathize with the spirit of the past but must also be able to interpret it in the terms of the present; of no historical writing is this so true as in the dealing with the history of any religious period or organization. Religion has changed insensibly but immensely in the past sixty years; one can hardly be accused of any unfairness if one says that the church today having the largest membership is that of Laodicea, whereas sixty years ago religion was a most serious matter. It is very difficult, perhaps

impossible, for us of today who grumble at a twenty-five minute sermon and break into open revolt at a forty-minute discourse, to realize that the founders of this church were accustomed to revel in a ninety-minute exhortation from Dr. Bayne, and that after a short intermission they returned to indulge in a religious debauch of a two-hour address from the same eminent pulpiteer. That we who will not go a quarter of a mile to church for fear of getting the car dusty should ever understand the religious zeal that made men and women walk five and even seven miles, no matter what the weather rather than miss the service, is quite out of the question.

Fortunately, St. Luke in his admirable history of the Acts of the Apostles set an example for all future writers of church history, so we will try to imitate him in his exclusion of those details which are so dear to the curious mind, even if we cannot hope to attain his inspiration or his marvellous condensation.

Rev. J. Bayne, First Minister

Knox's Church owes its birth to the independence and impatient zeal of the Rev. John Bayne, its minister for the first fifteen years of its existence, and a man of considerable importance in the early history of Presbyterianism in Canada, and to have any conception of the origin and spirit of Knox's Church one must seek an understanding of its founder, but unfortunately Dr. Bayne left practically no record of himself save in the churches he founded. It is true of these he might say with Horace, "I have erected a monument more lasting than bronze," but unfortunately though the monuments are still with us the hieroglyphics have not as yet been deciphered, and so one must have recourse to the very scanty records still in existence of the distinguished Doctor of Divinity to whom we owe so much. And from these we learn: That John Bayne was born in Greenock on November 16th, 1806, the son of the Gaelic minister of that town. That his ability was such that he matriculated into Glasgow University at the age of thirteen. That by the time he was fifteen he was an orphan but continued in his studies until he graduated in arts and divinity. That in 1827 at the age of twenty-one he settled in Edinburgh where for some years he acted as assistant to various ministers. One pauses here to reflect on the wonderful privilege it was to any man of intelligence to spend years of the formative time of his life in the Edinburgh of that period, when the old city was at the very pinnacle of its literary pre-eminence, when one could match wit with Scott,

Jeffrey, Brougham, Smith, Ramsay, Chalmers, and a score of others less known but hardly less knowing. At all events Dr. Bayne made the most of his opportunities and at the end of his probationship was a finished scholar, a clear thinker, and a man of undaunted courage.

Called to Galt

In 1834 he decided to come to Canada, and was ordained a minister for some reason by the Presbytery of Dingwall, and shortly after sailed to Canada, where his first engagement was to supply the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, during the absence of the minister of that congregation, and at the end of this engagement he received a call to the Presbyterian Church in Galt, known for many years as the Old Hill Church. Here he at once entered into his own, not only building up his own congregation but establishing churches at Paris, Ayr, Doon, Hespeler and two in Puslinch, all still in existence. The services would not be popular today, as there was only one a Sunday, beginning about 11 a.m. and ending about 3 p.m., but the people of those days were a sturdy stock and Dr. Bayne never lacked an audience. In 1842 he paid a visit to his native land, where he took an active part in the great disruption battle during the winter of 1842-43, and in the spring of 1843, on his return to Canada, he at once began a movement in the church of this country to separate itself from the Established Church of Scotland, a movement that reached its climax at the General Assembly in 1844, held at Kingston. Here he and his supporters were defeated, and at once declared that no matter what others did, they would maintain that Jesus Christ was the only head of the Church. And here Dr. Bayne showed his constructive ability for he was undoubtedly, if not the only founder of the Free Presbyterian Church in Canada, at least one of the most active and efficient of the founders of that church.

Beginning of Knox's

On his return to Galt he preached from his own pulpit a sermon giving his reasons for the position he had taken and in a most dramatic finale walked out of the church followed by a large majority of the congregation. As Acts of Parliament expropriating church property had not at that time become fashionable, those who remained held the property, and it was necessary to organize a new congregation and secure a place of worship. This was the beginning of Knox's church, founded in 1844, and beginning its existence in a building known as

Biggar's Barn. It has always seemed to us fitting that a congregation which owed its inception to a desire and a determination to maintain the supremacy of Jesus Christ as the only head of the church, should begin its existence in a building which would surely remind the worshippers of the first Christmas morn.

In 1846 a new church was erected on Ainslie Street where the market building now stands, and here for thirteen years longer the redoubtable John Bayne ministered to an ever-increasing congregation. But in 1859 he passed away at the early age of barely fifty-three; he lacked some two weeks of his fifty-third birthday.

Knox's Church has had several excellent ministers and it would be invidious to single out any one minister for special mention, but Dr Bayne was the founder, not only of Knox's Church but of half a dozen other congregations and in a great measure the founder of Free Presbyterianism in Canada, and one of the founders of Knox College, Toronto, and beyond all that he set the standard the church has to measure up to: "The supremacy of Jesus Christ as the only head of the Church." Dr. Bayne saw clearly that the Saviour of the world was an infinity that could not be incorporated by an Act of Parliament and whose powers could not be restricted by the resolutions of a General Assembly nor the decrees of an OEcumenical Council. This is the faith he taught our predecessors and this is the faith they have handed down to us, and so far the church has not departed from it.

Second Pastor

In the last year or two of Dr. Bayne's ministry he had the assistance of Rev. Mr. Geikie, but on Dr. Bayne's death the congregation for some reason did not call Mr. Geikie to the pulpit, and for over a year the congregation was without a minister. It was not until 1861 that the pulpit was filled by the Rev. Dr. John Thomson, a Scotchman, but coming to us from New York. Of this gentleman we can learn nothing save in the meagre records of the Church Session, from which we learn that he and his associate elders reproved the various sinners of the congregation. His rebukes must have been taken in good part for he departed in 1864 with the good wishes of the congregation, to be succeeded after an interval of several months by the Rev. J. K. Smith, afterwards Dr. Smith. This gentleman continued with us, at intervals, for some twenty years and it was during

his ministry that the present building was erected, the first record of this being in the minutes of the congregational meeting of January 1st, 1868, when a resolution was passed urging the Trustees (the Board of Managers was then known as the Board of Trustees) to take the immediate steps to secure increased accommodation for the congregation, and a further resolution fixing the required accommodation at fifteen hundred sittings. The records of 1868, 1869 and 1870 contain much information as to the building. The Architect chosen, a Mr. James Smith of Toronto; a rather remarkable coincidence that a congregation having the Rev. James Smith for minister should choose one James Smith for architect, but the present building fully justifies the choice, and though the architect designed the building we find that the congregation chose the materials. The contractor, Lewis Kribs of Hespeler, father of the present Sheriff of Waterloo County; the contract price $20,450. We could not build the tower for that today. The Inspector, Mr. Robert Ovens. And the greatest of all in importance, the struggles of a large but by no means wealthy congregation to provide a proper place of worship, a building that would be worthy of its purpose. We, their successors, after an interval of sixty years, thank these predecessors of ours for the work they did so wisely and so well and for the example they set us. We find no reference to the laying of the cornerstone nor of the opening of the church in our own records. Apparently whoever kept the records of those days had strict ideas as to the essentials of life and neglected to supply material for our curiosity.

Dr. Smith Leaves

About 1870 Mrs. Smith's health was the occasion of a visit to California of six months' duration by herself and her husband, and in 1872 Dr. Smith accepted a call to a church in Halifax, leaving us for some two years without a minister. Two or three attempts were made to secure a minister but for some reason or other failed and it was not until 1874 that Dr. Smith was prevailed on to return, the salary being fixed at $2,500, equal to $10,000 today, and this was afterwards raised to $3,000, and the church and minister settled down to over ten years of steady work, so barren of excitement that it was probably profitable for both.

During the absence of Dr. Smith in Halifax the congregation was twice called on to consider whether or not it would approve of the Articles of Agreement between the Presbyterian churches of Canada, who were striving to arrange a union — a

movement which culminated in the Union of 1875 — and we find that on both occasions the Articles of Agreement were rejected by the congregation, the motion rejecting setting out that "the Articles of Agreement contained no clause stating that Jesus Christ was the only Head of the Church, and that the Church owed allegiance to Him and to Him alone." Dr. Bayne had evidently not labored in vain.

At the end of this period, Dr. Smith again left us to take a church in California, and after some time the Rev. Dr. Alexander Jackson was called, and he remained with us some ten years — by no means so peaceful, though perhaps as profitable as the preceding ten. Thirty years, perhaps, should wash away all memory of dissension, and the one thing we chronicle of Dr. Jackson's ministry is the installation of the organ. The matter had come up for discussion before, but it remained for Dr. Jackson's ministry to make this at that time most important change.

Even in those days the lure of the United States affected us, and in 1897 Dr. Jackson left us for a church in Cleveland, making the third minister in succession to leave us for the United States; and in 1897 we called the Rev. R. E. Knowles, who remained with us until 1914. Mr. Knowles' work among us is too recent for comment but the monument of his ministry is to be found in the Sunday School, which was erected in 1908 at an approximate cost of $25,000. In his later years, 1913-14, Mr. Knowles had as assistant the Rev. Mr. Mothersill, now a minister in Scotland.

The Past 15 Years

We find it difficult to discuss, or even to chronicle, the last fifteen years. They are so well known to most of the congregation that a mere chronicle is dull, and any attempt to analyze and enlarge it is apt to prove controversial; and this chronicle is being written for a jubilee, a time of joy, and not of argument.

In 1915 the congregation called the Rev. J. Keir Fraser, now of Renfrew, who spent some twelve years with us, some of which were certainly eventful, for it was during Mr. Fraser's ministry that the congregation was called on to decide whether or not it would join the movement that for years had been growing and associate itself with the United Church of Canada, a legal entity begotten by an Act of Parliament and declared by the Supreme Court of Canada an incorporated body. For the third time the congregation proclaimed to all the world the doctrine, one might almost call it the battle cry, it had received from its

founder — that Jesus Christ, and He alone, was the Head of the Church, and that this congregation would acknowledge no other authority than His, neither resolution of a General Assembly nor Act of Parliament. In this controversy Dr. Fraser took a most active and efficient part, never once abandoning the oath he had taken when ordained, but resolutely maintaining the Presbyterian cause.

Dr. Fraser left us late in 1926, to be succeeded in May, 1927, by our present pastor, Rev. W. Patterson Hall, M.A., C.F., whom we will not discuss. Five of his predecessors left visible monuments: Dr. Bayne, the congregation; Dr. Smith, the church; Dr. Jackson, the organ; Mr. Knowles, the Sunday School; Dr. Fraser, the church preserved. As for our present minister, we think his monument can be found in the affection of his congregation, to all of whom he has been either a comforter or a most delightful friend.

Addenda: Rev. Mr. Hall returned to Ireland some four or five years ago and his place was taken by Rev. J. G. Smart, M.A., Ph.D.

A substantial change has been made in the interior of the old church. The side galleries have been removed and stained glass windows substituted for the old windows that had weathered some sixty or seventy years. The interior is much beautified but the seating capacity is reduced.

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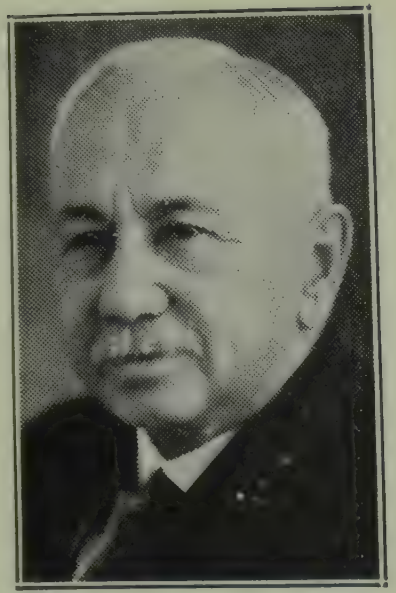
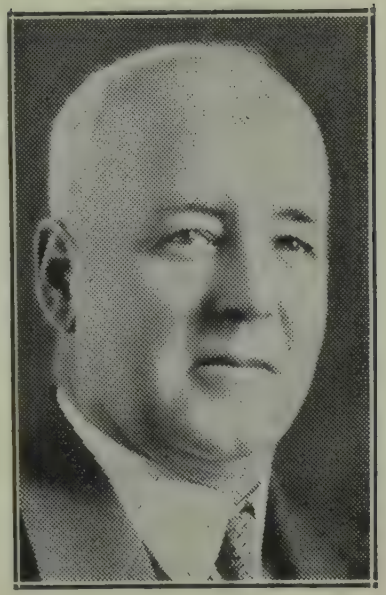
BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Jerome F. Honsberger

Dr. Jerome F. Honsberger, physician and humanitarian, was born in South Cayuga on October 6th, 1859, the son of Valentine Honsberger and Katherine Honsberger, nee Fry, and died in Kitchener, November 9th, 1937. His early life was a struggle to obtain an education. After unusual application he was able to qualify for attendance at the first county "Model School" at Caledonia for a period of three months, emerging with a third class teacher's certificate. After a number of years spent as a teacher he managed to finance a course



J. F. HONSBERGER, K.C.



GEO. BRAY, K.C.

at Brantford Collegiate, followed by a term at the Toronto Normal School. After a further term as a teacher he was able to take up the study of medicine at Trinity Medical College in 1882.

Upon securing his doctor's degree he began his life work as a physician, first for a few years at Delhi and, upon removal to Kitchener, then Berlin, in 1895, for more than 40 years of local practice.

In this extended period scarcely a single movement aimed at the betterment of conditions for people of any social status was launched without the support of Dr. Honsberger. Indeed even before locating in the city he had assisted in the incorporation of his native Village of Delhi.

Many of the public services visioned by him and a few contemporaries and later brought to fruition were virtual crusades. Thus he was active in the organization of the Y.M.C.A. in the then Berlin in 1897 and continued as a director of that institution until his death.

Cited in chronological order, Dr. Honsberger's contributions to the development of his adopted city form a continuous chain.

At the turn of the century he was elected to the board of the Berlin Orphanage and served later as president. In 1902 he won aldermanic honors and served two years. In his capacity as chairman of the sewer committee he pioneered the first sand filtration and septic tank disposal plant. At this time too he championed the establishment of the local Carnegie Library. From 1904 until his passing he served Waterloo County as a coroner. In 1907 Dr. Honsberger became medical health officer of the city and directed a stern fight against an epidemic that broke out shortly after.

As one of the earliest members of the local Board of Trade he was outstanding in his efforts to induce industries to locate in the city. A confirmed patriot, he was to the fore when the Canadian Club was founded and became its president in the second year.

Probably Dr. Honsberger's most outstanding contribution to public welfare was his association with the men who first conceived the idea which led to the founding of the Freeport Sanatorium. He worked with such pioneers as Dr. F. E. Oberlander, Dr. G. H. Bowlby, Dr. H. G. Lackner and W. H. Schmalz to bring about the establishment of the institution.

Other activities in which he found an interest were the Kiwanis Club summer camp outings for under-privileged children.

In the cause of peace he organized the first League of Nations Society in the city at the request of Hon. N. W. Rowell, vice-president of the society in Canada.

In 1911 he had the honor of representing Canada at the International Hygiene Congress at Dresden, Germany. This was at the time of the Coronation of King George V and the Doctor was called to the Anglican Church there to represent Canada among the peoples of the Empire gathered for the service.

About 1911 Dr. Honsberger was elected to the first Board of Education and became its first Chairman. In 1915 he was named to the High School Board, serving to the end of 1917. At that time Dr. Honsberger crusaded with the late John A. Lang and the late Edward Smyth to form a new high school district to include the Town of Waterloo. Special legislation was passed which incorporated the Berlin-Waterloo High School district as it is constituted today. During the Great War period he retired from the High School Board but was returned to the board in 1923 and became its Chairman in 1929, serving as a member until his death. During his regime as Chairman the Doctor championed the new fifth class system and was the organizer and motivating influence from which the educational change finally evolved.

From 1931 to 1935 Dr. Honsberger was a member of the Kitchener Old Age Pensions Commission and until a new act put the administration of pensions under provincial auspices.

From March, 1921, until his retirement in 1929 Dr. Honsberger served as medical director of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada.

Busily engaged in medical practice and all the other diversified activities he was always a church leader. As a member of Trinity United Church he served on the Board of Trustees, the committee of stewards, and elder of the session and as chairman of ushers.

Dr. Honsberger was predeceased by his wife by only one year. He was survived by one son, Gordon McK. Honsberger and one daughter, Mrs. Harold Wagner of Waterloo, and two grandchildren.

George Bray, K.C.

George Bray, K.C., well-known lawyer and one of the leading members of the Waterloo County bar and deputy judge of the county, died at his home in Kitchener on October 1st, 1937, after an extended illness.

Mr. Bray was born in Elma Township, County Perth, on August 10th, 1873, the son of Jacob and Jane Bray. After attending Listowel and St. Catharines schools he attended the University of Toronto from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1897. After graduating from Osgoode Hall he was called to the bar in 1900.

His successful legal career began at Listowel where he practised until 1918 in which year he entered into a partnership with the late Alexander Millar, K.C., and H. J. Sims, K.C. In 1932 Mr. Bray formed a partnership with his son, Murray, with whom he practised until his death.

Mr. Bray did the legal work for the City of Kitchener and frequently represented the corporation before the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board and the courts. Many by-laws and agreements of vital concern to the corporation were drawn by him.

He was appointed deputy judge in 1919 and was made a King's Counsel in 1930.

Mr. Bray was a member of the Kitchener Public Library Board from 1922 to 1934 and was chairman of the board for several years. He was active in Kiwanis Club circles. He was a prominent Mason and a Past Master of Grand River Lodge, A.F. and A.M., and was also a Scottish Rite Mason. He was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Bray was survived by his wife, nee Florence Murray, and one son, Murray.

■

Augustus Werner

Augustus Werner was born in Kitchener in 1856 and died in Elmira, June 4th, 1937. He came to Elmira in 1869 and was one of the town's oldest and most public spirited citizens.

As an apprentice he entered the drug business then conducted by J. H. Savage and later managed the business for Dr. Walmsley and Dr. Lutz. After Dr. Lutz retired Mr. Werner managed the store for Dr. Walmsley, subsequently becoming a partner. Shortly after, however, Mr. Werner opened a business of his own, which he operated successfully until his retirement.

During his early years in Elmira Mr. Werner was elected a member of the Elmira School Board of which he was secretary for many years. He served for seventeen years as representative for Woolwich Township on the North Waterloo High School Board, now the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Board. He was primarily responsible for the introduction of Manual Training at the Collegiate.

Appointed a delegate to the Ontario Trustees' Convention at Toronto, Mr. Werner was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Association and held office for sixteen years. Later he became president and when his term of office expired he was made honorary president.

Through Mr. Werner's efforts and those of the late E. W. B. Snider, the Bell Telephone Company extended its services to Elmira and Mr. Werner became manager of the Elmira branch for thirty-three years.

In politics Mr. Werner was a Liberal and in religion a staunch adherent of the Presbyterian Church, serving also as Sunday School superintendent for more than forty years. He was a prominent Mason, being a Life Member and Past Master of Grand River Lodge, A.F. and A.M., Kitchener.

Surviving him are one daughter, Mrs. R. H. MacMicking of Edmonton, Alberta, and one granddaughter, Jean Werner of Toronto. His son, Sheldon W. Werner, and his wife both predeceased him.

The Monetary Times 1871, The Metal Worker 1876-1877, The Investigator 1881, Der Perth Volksfreund 1878, Kirchen-Blatt, 1873 — papers. John P. Plecan.

Bullet Mould. Noah C. Bechtel.

Bulletin 83, Nat'l. Mus. of Can. Roebuck Prehistoric Village Site, Grenville County, Ontario. W. J. Wintemberg, Ottawa.

Globe Weekly, 1877, 1878 full years, Globe Weekly 1880 and 1881 seven months. A. M. McRae, Galt.

Door frame, main door of first Mennonite Church, 1934 building. D. B. Betzner, Kitchener.

Pamphlet One hundred years of the United Church, Hespeler, and Centennial Anniversary Program. D. N. Panabaker, Hespeler.

Small photo of West Montrose bridge (timber, covered) over Grand River. A. E. Richert, West Montrose.

Facsimile reprint No. 31 of Act of Naturalization of 113 German and other inhabitants of Pennsylvania, 1730, Patrick Gordon, Lieut. Governor of Pennsylvania.

Steel Hand Taps, R. & L., for threading bench vise parts, bedsteads, etc. Steel hand die, R., for threading wooden screws for bedstead rails, bench vises, etc. D. N. Panabaker.

Old-fashioned soldering iron. Morris Eaton near Hespeler.

Hand root cutter, also said to have been used in early days for chopping sausage meat. John Gillard, Hespeler.

John S. Huber, Blenheim, Family Bible, German, Philadelphia N-D. Purchased 1852. George Turnbull, Kitchener.

Iron stove lift, blacksmith work. George Turnbull, Kitchener.

Tin candle box (Miss Annie McGeorge); Yarn Reel (Mrs. Robert Lillie). Miss E. D. Watson, Ayr.

Bullet mould and three pointed bullets, as used by early settlers. Angus S. Bauman, R.R. 2, Wallenstein, Ont.

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